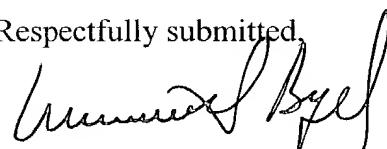


#### REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Official Action of April 5, 2004. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-10 and 20-34 are allowed, Claims 12-14 and 36-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and Claims 15-19 and 39-43 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. In order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the recitations of Claim 11 have been incorporated into Claim 12, and Claim 11 has been canceled. The recitations of Claim 35 have been incorporated into Claim 36, and Claim 35 has been canceled. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from Claim 13, to provide proper antecedent basis, and thereby overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112. Claim 39 has been amended to depend from Claim 37, to provide proper antecedent basis, and thereby overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112. Finally, Claims 44 and 45 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 36.

In view of the above, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

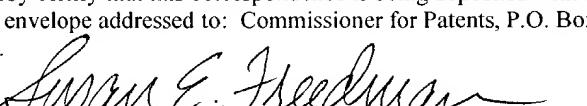


Mitchell S. Bigel  
Registration No. 29,614  
Attorney for Applicants

**Customer Number 20792**  
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.  
P.O. Box 37428  
Raleigh, NC 27627  
919-854-1400  
919-854-1401 (Fax)

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 5, 2004.

  
Susan E. Freedman  
Date of Signature: May 5, 2004

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**